marks and on Intracoastal Waterway marks. No significance is attached to white reflective material.

[CGD 86–031, 52 FR 42640, Nov. 6, 1987, as amended by CGD 88–018, 54 FR 48608, Nov. 24, 1989; CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33573, June 19, 1998]

§ 62.47 Sound signals.

(a) Often sound signals are located on or adjacent to aids to navigation. When visual signals are obscured, sound signals warn mariners of the proximity of danger.

(1) Sound signals are distinguished by their tone and phase characteristics.

(i) Tones are determined by the devices producing the sound (i.e., diaphones, diaphragm horns, reed horns, sirens, whistles, bells and gongs).

(ii) Phase characteristics are defined by the signal's sound pattern, i.e., the number of blasts and silent periods per minute and their durations. Sound signals emanating from fixed structures generally produce a specific number of blasts and silent periods each minute when operating. Buoy sound signals are generally actuated by the motion of the sea and therefore do not emit a regular signal characteristic.

(2) Where no live watch is maintained, sound signals are normally operated continuously. However, some are equipped with fog detectors which activate sound signals when visibility falls below a predetermined limit.

(b) Mariners should not rely solely on sound signals to determine their positions for the following reasons:

(1) Distance cannot be accurately determined by sound intensity.

(2) Occasionally sound signals may not be heard in areas close to their location.

(3) Signals may not sound in cases where fog exists close to, but not at, the location of the sound signal.

(4) As buoy signals are generally activated by sea motion, they may produce no signals when seas are calm.

(5) As previously noted, buoy positions are not always reliable. Therefore their sound signals cannot be assumed to be emanating from a fixed position.

§ 62.49 Intracoastal Waterway identification.

(a) In addition to the conventional signals, aids to navigation marking the Intracoastal Waterway exhibit unique yellow symbols to distinguish them from aids marking other waters.

(1) Yellow triangles indicate that aids to navigation so marked should be passed keeping them on the starboard (right) hand of a vessel, regardless of the aid's number, color, or light color.

(2) Yellow squares indicate that aids to navigation so marked should be passed keeping them on the port (left) hand of a vessel, regardless of the aid's number, color, or light color.

(3) A horizontal yellow band provides no lateral information, but simply identifies aids to navigation as marking the Intracoastal Waterway.

(b) The above guidelines apply for vessels traversing the Intracoastal Waterway in a southerly direction on the Atlantic Coast, in a westerly direction on the Okeechobee Waterway, or in a westerly direction along the Gulf Coast.

[CGD 86–031, 52 FR 42640, Nov. 6, 1987; CGD 86–031, 52 FR 46351, Dec. 5, 1987]

§ 62.51 Western Rivers Marking System.

(a) A variation of the standard U.S. aids to navigation system described above is employed on the Mississippi River and tributaries above Baton Rouge, LA and on certain other rivers which flow toward the Gulf of Mexico.

(b) The Western Rivers System varies from the standard U.S. system as follows:

(1) Buoys are not numbered.

(2) Numbers on beacons do not have odd/even lateral significance but, rather, indicate mileage from a fixed point (normally the river mouth).

(3) Diamond-shaped non-lateral dayboards, checkered red-and-white or green-and-white, similar to those used in the U.S. Aids to Navigation System, as appropriate, are used as crossing dayboards where the river channel crosses from one bank to the other.

(4) Lights on green buoys and on beacons with green daymarks show a single flash which may be green or white.

(5) Lights on red buoys and on beacons with red daymarks show a double

flash [Group Flashing (2)] which may be red or white.

(6) Isolated danger marks are not used.

[CGD 86–031, 52 FR 42640, Nov. 6, 1987, as amended by CGD–94–091, 61 FR 27782, June 3, 1996; USCG–2001–9286, 66 FR 33640, June 25, 2001]

§ 62.53 Racons.

(a) Aids to navigation may be enhanced by the use of radar beacons (racons). Racons, when triggered by a radar signal, will transmit a coded reply to the interrogating radar. This reply serves to identify the aid station by exhibiting a series of dots and dashes which appear on the radar display in a line emanating radially from just beyond the echo of the aid station. Although racons may be used on both laterally significant and non-laterally significant aids alike, the racon signal itself is for identification purposes only, and therefore carries no lateral significance.

(b) Racons are also used as bridge marks to mark the best point of passage.

§ 62.54 Ownership identification.

Ownership identification on private or state aids to navigation is permitted so long as it does not change or hinder an understanding of the meaning of the aid to navigation.

[CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33573, June 19, 1998]

Subpart C—Maritime Radiobeacons

§ 62.55 General.

Maritime radiobeacons operate during specific intervals as published in Coast Guard Light Lists. For station identification, simple characteristics consisting of combinations of dots and dashes are used. The characteristics of marker-beacons are composed of series of dashes for part of a 15 second cycle, which is followed by a silent period to complete the cycle. The transmitted power of maritime radiobeacons is adjusted to provide a useable signal at the service range which meets the operational requirement. Marker-beacons are of low power for local use only. Coast Guard maritime radiobeacons operate within the frequency band 275–335 kilohertz.

§ 62.57 Carrier type operation.

Radiobeacons superimpose the characteristic code on a carrier frequency which is on continuously during the period of transmission.This extends the usefulness of maritime radiobeacons to aircraft and ships employing automatic direction finders.

§ 62.59 Calibration service.

Special calibration radiobeacons, as listed in the current editions of the Coast Guard Light Lists, will broadcast continuously for the purpose of enabling vessels to calibrate their direction finders upon request either to the cognizant District Commander, or, if time does not permit, directly to the calibration station. Signals for requesting calibration service are described in the current editions of the Coast Guard Light Lists. In the case of sequenced radiobeacon stations, continuous transmission for calibration purposes cannot be made without interference resulting with other stations in the same frequency group.

§ 62.61 Caution.

(a) A vessel steering a course for a radiobeacon should observe the same precautions that apply when steering for a light or any other mark.

(b) Distance cannot be accurately determined by radiobeacon signal. Mariners must exercise extreme caution when the aid to navigation which supports the radiobeacon is not visible, and no other means of determining its distance is available.

(c) If the radiobeacon is aboard a Large Navigational Buoy (LNB) or on any marine site, particular care should be exercised to avoid the possibility of collision. In addition, caution should be exercised in using radiobeacons aboard floating aids, because of the possibility that the aid could be off station.